

TRUTH

Vol. 5; No. 10

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, NOVEMBER 18, 1905.

PRICE 5 CENTS

Deseret News and Church Influence

The Deseret News took great offense at an article which appeared in the issue of Truth of Nov. 11. Last Monday the News devoted considerable space to calling Truth a liar and in attempting to explain away the allegations of Truth that the News favored the Democratic party in the recent election, used "church influence" in behalf of that party, thereby causing the defeat of the Republicans and the election of the "American" ticket.

The News denies that it favored the Democrats in the campaign and says that Truth did not prove its charges and did not quote from the News in support of its assertions.

We did not make quotations from the News because it was entirely unnecessary, and to do so would consume much more space than we have at our command, at least 75 per cent of the political matter which appeared in the News during the campaign being either directly or indirectly "boosts" for the Democrats. It was recognized and known by everybody at all interested during the six weeks preceding the election that the News was in truth and in fact a Democratic organ. It was discussed in Republican meetings that the Republicans had the News against them and Democrats openly boasted that the church organ was with them. In the body of articles the News even went so far as to print in capital letters salient points urged by the Democrats. Editorials, although written guardedly, unfailingly carried the impression that the interests of the city demanded the election of the Democratic ticket. These are matters of common knowledge. Of course no passage appeared in the News in which it was baldly stated that the people should vote the Democratic ticket. But the News constantly lauded the Democratic administration, openly denounced the "Americans" and by innuendo let no opportunity pass to strike the Republicans. Truth several times during the campaign called attention to the fact that the church organ was favoring the Democrats and suggested to those who control the paper, or are gener-

ally understood to control it, that the favoritism should be stopped.

The News, in its editorial of Nov. 13, denouncing Truth, admits that the News was in politics. Here is what it says: "The News is ready at any time to meet the charge of Democratic leanings or Republican proclivities and is able to defend itself on either ground as an independent paper, but not as a neutral."

An independent paper is one free to support any party. A neutral is quite another thing. The News emphatically says it is not neutral. It certainly was not in the recent campaign. The president of the church has again and again stated that the church was not in politics in any shape, manner or form whatsoever. That surely means that the official organ of the church is not in politics. The editor of the News, however, says the News is independent, not a neutral, and in doing so the News, in effect, says that President Smith does not speak the truth. The statements of the News and the president of the church are diametrically opposed to each other and no amount of sophistry can reconcile them. Moreover the News being the official organ of the church and entering into politics and taking sides as it has done has violated the constitution of the state which provides that the church and state shall be separate and distinct and that the church shall not interfere with the functions of the state.

In the campaign the News on more than one occasion hammered the Republicans by taking for its text false statements of the Tribune to the effect that the Republicans were unsuccessfully sometimes and other times successfully seeking the influence of the church, but the News had neither time nor inclination to deny the Herald's false statement that "Republican whisperers" were officially reprimanded, that the Deseret News in an editorial sanctioned by the first presidency rebuked the "Smoot machine."

The News didn't want this contradicted, although the News knew it was false. It played in with the Herald, the Democratic organ, in order that the impression the News had created

that the church favored the Democrats should be given as much publicity as possible.

The News had no word of censure for Democratic Chairman Martineau, who through the whole campaign worked the church influence racket and did his utmost to drag the church into politics and on the day before the election and on election day used the News itself as a campaign document. Early in the afternoon of the day of election Mr. Martineau got out a circular letter or dodger as the News very appropriately calls it, falsely stating that Senator Smoot had conceded that the Republican ticket was beaten. This dodger, which the News admits was printed in the News job office was widely circulated by Deseret News carriers at the polling places and through the city generally and several of the ardent Democrats of the News industriously occupied themselves in spreading that false report gotten out by the Democratic city committee and signed by its chairman.

Truth makes specific charges against the News.

1st. That it during the campaign strongly advocated the election of the Democratic ticket, openly and decisively opposed the "American" ticket and opposed the Republican ticket covertly and by innuendo and finally dealt it a death blow. The News itself during and before the campaign is ample proof of those assertions.

2nd. The two paragraphs which appeared prominently on the first page of the News on the evening of the day before the election taken in connection with what had appeared in the News before was a clear direction to voters to vote the Democratic ticket. It was so considered by the public generally, Gentile and Mormon alike; so considered by the Democratic campaign committee which purchased several thousand copies of the News containing those paragraphs and circulated them as a campaign document. The article complained of was also printed with other matter in the form of a circular and sent broadcast, through Deseret News carriers, over the city. The same type was used in the printing of the circulars as was used in the News, the type being lifted from one form to the other. The latter proceeding Councilman Fernstrom could explain. He was probably the originator of the scheme, if

not the originator he was in on it with the Democratic city committee, and the News editors and manager, and knew the value of the News as a campaign document to assist in the election of the ticket on which he was a candidate.

3d. The News by its actions has subjected the church of which it is the official organ to deserved censure and put the heads of the church in the light of breaking their pledges and made them appear as insincere in their declaration that the church takes no hand in politics.

These are cold facts which no amount of explanations and no contortion of language or sophistry can explain away. The News has brought upon itself the bitter condemnation of the Gentile Republicans and equally as bitter censure by a great many Mormons, who want this church influence consigned to a bottomless pit.

Truth is thoroughly convinced that President Joseph F. Smith and the others of the first presidency did not exercise any church influence in the campaign. The News, however, on its own responsibility and directly contrary to the wishes of the church leaders, made it appear that the church wanted the Democratic ticket elected. To clear their own skirts the church leaders should in some decisive way show their disapproval of the course of the News.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

On November 9th the National Bank of the Republic filed suit in the Third district court against W. G. Van Horne, now of Egypt, but formerly of Salt Lake City, and Joseph Lippman to recover \$3,209.45 and costs alleged to be due on a promissory note dated January 31, 1901, due and payable on January 31, 1902. The note was signed by Mr. Van Horne and endorsed by Mr. Lippman. It will be remembered that in January, 1901, Mr. Van Horne was a member of the lower house of the Utah legislature. That was before Mr. Van Horne, by the grace of Senator Kearns, received the United States Federal appointment of Justice of the Court of First Instance at Cairo, Egypt, which he now holds. It will also be remembered that at that time Mr. Van Horne was not in affluent circumstances and that few people would have considered it prudent to lend